United Nations

CORE VALUES: *INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM, RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY*

ECA Senior Fellowship Programme for African Professionals

(Multiple positions at Addis Ababa duty station)
Call for Applications, 2026 Cohort of Fellows

Fellowship Duration: 6 – 9 months

Application deadline: 9 December 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Addis Ababa time

Organizational Setting and Reporting Relationships:

ECA is the regional arm of the United Nations in Africa. Its mandate is to promote the economic and social development of Africa. ECA's dual role as a regional arm of the UN, and a part of the regional institutional landscape in Africa, positions it well to make unique contributions to member States' efforts to address their development challenges. ECA has five sub-regional offices and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, (IDEP)through which it supports regional development priorities and agenda and African countries in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

ECA's mission is to deliver ideas and actions for an empowered and transformed Africa; informed by the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

The mission is guided by the five strategic directions of the institution, which are; advancing ECA's position as a premier knowledge institution in supporting evidence based policy making,; developing macroeconomic and structural policy options to accelerate economic diversification and job creation; designing and implementing innovative financing models for infrastructure, human, physical and social assets for transforming Africa; promoting regional integration and addressing transboundary issues and challenges,; advocating Africa's position at the global level and developing regional responses as a contribution to global governance issues.

As a foremost knowledge policy institution in Africa, ECA is pleased to launch the pilot phase of its Senior Fellowship Programme. The Programme is designed to attract distinguished senior scholars, academics / researchers and policy practitioners who are willing to take sabbatical leave or leave of absence for the period of the Fellowship to contribute to ECA's work while benefiting from immersion in a regional and multilateral policy environment. The Fellowship aims to strengthen collaboration between ECA, universities, research institutions, think tanks, and policy communities across Africa and globally. It provides an opportunity for senior experts to apply their knowledge and experience to address Africa's development challenges while contributing to ECA's strategic priorities.

The Senior Fellowship Programme is aligned with ECA's mandate to strengthen Africa's policy and institutional capacities by fostering collaboration between leading scholars, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. Through the engagement of distinguished experts, the Programme seeks to enhance ECA's analytical and advisory capabilities, promote evidence-

based policymaking, facilitate knowledge exchange between academia and the policy community, and support member States in addressing complex economic, social, environmental, technological, and governance challenges.

ECA is hereby inviting applications from qualified African Professionals in the following strategic areas of work:

- Economic Governance and Financing for Development;
- AI and Digital Transformation;
- Climate and Green Growth;
- Industrialization and Economic Diversification Policies

Objectives of the Programme

The ECA Senior Fellowship Programme seeks to:

- Provide ECA with high-level expertise, knowledge, and technical capacity in areas of strategic importance.
- Strengthen partnerships between ECA and universities, research institutions, and knowledge centers in Africa and beyond.
- Expose senior scholars and practitioners to regional and multilateral policymaking processes.
- Foster knowledge exchange between academic, research, and policy communities.
- Build a network of leading experts who can continue to support ECA's work beyond the fellowship period.
- Promote mentorship and collaboration between Senior Fellows and participants in ECA's Young African Professionals Fellowship Programme.
- Enhance ECA's analytical, policy, and research outputs through the contributions of Senior Fellows.

Responsibilities:

Within delegated authority, the Senior Fellows will be responsible for the following duties:

The Senior Fellows will report to the Directors of assigned Divisions and will agree to a work programme that targets to: Provide intellectual guidance and strategic advice on ECA programmes and initiatives; Contribute to research, policy analysis, and flagship publications; Produce high-quality knowledge products relevant to ECA's mandate; Support policy dialogue and capacity-building activities; Deliver seminars, lectures, and policy discussions for ECA staff and partners; Mentor Young African Professional Fellows and contribute to their professional development; Strengthen collaboration between ECA and their home institutions and Contribute to resource mobilization, partnerships, and knowledge networks where

appropriate.

Expected Outputs:

- Policy papers and briefs
- Contributions to ECA flagship publications
- Technical advisory support to divisions and subregional offices
- Seminars and knowledge-sharing sessions
- Mentorship of Young African Professionals Fellows

Competencies:

Professionalism: In-depth knowledge and understanding of socio-economic and political development issues; conceptual and strategic ability to analyze and evaluate critical matters pertaining to socio-economic and political issues in Africa including ability to translate development-related data/information into policy relevant analyses; practical experience in programming management, monitoring and administration; Demonstrated experience in knowledge/Information management, media relations, communication and Information technology; ability to undertake research with limited supervision; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; remains calm in stressful situations. Takes responsibility for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work.

Communication: Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; tailors language, tone, style and format to match audience; demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed. Ability to present high-level papers to peers and stakeholders, both at the institutional, regional and international level, both orally and in writing, in a clear, concise style.

Team work: Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others; places team agenda before personal agenda; supports and acts in accordance with final group decision, even when such decisions may not entirely reflect own position; shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relations with people of different national and cultural backgrounds and respect for diversity.

Qualifications:

Education: A doctorate degree or equivalent advanced professional qualification in economics, AI and information technology, development studies, international affairs, political and social sciences, climate change, minerals and natural resources, engineering, and related field is required.

Experience: Must have a minimum of twenty (20) years of professional experience in

academia, research institutions, international organizations, public policy (such as government with deep expertise in economic planning, central banking, monetary or fiscal policy, development economics) or related fields. Demonstrate a distinguished record of scholarship, research, innovation, or professional achievement. Have an established publication record and recognized expertise in their field and demonstrate a track record of influencing policy, practice, or knowledge generation.

Language: English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the fellowship advertised, fluency in either language is required and working knowledge of the other is desirable. Knowledge of another official United Nations language is an advantage.

Special Notice

This call is open only to nationals of the Economic Commission for Africa member States inclusive of Africans in Diaspora.

Candidates must submit their Administrative Profiles (APs) and the following documents as PDF attachments:

- UN Administrative Profile (AP)* in PDF format, including a motivation statement (cover letter) within the AP (to be submitted as an attachment to email submission).

  - ✓ *The UN AP (Administrative Profile) can be created by signing up for an account at: https://inspira.un.org
  - ✓ Applicants should refer to pages 7-10 of this document which contains detailed step- by-step instructions about how to create an AP within the Inspira system and generate a PDF of the document which must be attached to your email submission;
  - ✓ There is no Job Opening for this Fellowship within the Inspira system. The instructions referenced above detail how applicants can create a draft AP (not tied to any published Job Opening) within Inspira, and save the draft AP as a PDF for inclusion as an attachment to the applicant's email submission;
  - ✓ ECA does NOT have an ability to retrieve draft/ created APs from Inspira; thus, email submissions that do not contain a complete AP as a PDF attachment will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed.
  - ✓ A blank sample AP is included for reference in pages 11-13 of this document. Your AP should look similar (except with all of the relevant information/ fields filled in) after following the steps outlined on pages 7-10.
  - ✓ The motivation statement is created as part of the online AP creation process in Inspira, and will be visible towards the end of the AP PDF under the heading "Motivation Statement for this Application" (refer to Page 11 of this document for an example).
  - ✓ If after reviewing the information above, you are still unable to generate the AP in the indicated PDF format, you may email: Bilen Kassahun at kassahunb@un.org for technical support. Please plan your time and attempt to create the draft AP well in advance so that you have sufficient time to

seek technical support, if needed.

- Copies of advanced academic degrees obtained (e.g., doctorate degree(s) or equivalent as well as masters degrees obtained or equivalent. As a doctorate level degree is required for the fellowship, first-level (bachelor's) degrees and certificates should NOT be submitted.
- Copy of applicant's national passport (information page only); if you hold multiple nationalities, the passport provided should be that of an ECA member State; for Africans in Diaspora with non-African nationalities, proof of African origin is required e.g. birth certificates.

An impeccable record for integrity and professional ethical standards is essential.

The United Nations Secretariat is committed to achieving 50/50 gender balance in its recruitment. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply. The United Nations is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment of mutual respect. Reasonable accommodation for applicants with disabilities may be provided to support participation in the recruitment process when requested and indicated in the application.

Conditions of Fellowship

The following conditions will apply:

1. The candidate must be a national of a member State of the Economic Commission for Africa (Africans in Diaspora are eligible to apply);
2. The candidate must be a leading expert in one or more of the identified thematic areas;
3. The candidate must be currently in employment in the academia or a research institution or a government department with the opportunity to secure a 6-9 months sabbatical leave or leave of absence for the fellowship;
4. The candidate must have a minimum of 20 years post-doctoral experience in academia, research institutions, think tanks and/ or similar academic or government department;
5. The candidate must show proof of an excellent track record of publications and/ or professional outputs;
6. The selected candidate will work on a predefined project, designed to contribute to specific aspects of the work programme of the mentoring Division, and contribute to other activities within the commission;
7. The selected candidate should participate in national, regional or international meetings as assigned for exposure;
8. Selected candidate will be a member of technical teams to contribute to peer reviews, expert consultations, and policy dialogues.
9. The selected candidate will become a member of the ECA Fellowship Alumni Community of Practice.
10. Additional terms and conditions will be communicated to selected candidates.

Logistics

1. The selected Senior Fellows must be available to travel to the assigned duty station after the selection process;
2. The selected Senior Fellows will receive a return air ticket between his/her country of residence and the assigned duty station;
3. The selected Senior Fellows will receive a one-off settling-in grant of USD 3,000 (for fellows recruited from countries outside of the country of assigned duty station) and a monthly stipend of USD 8,000 each for the duration of the fellowship. Note that the final month stipend will only be paid upon submission of:
   - A comprehensive fellowship report, an approved final performance evaluation of the fellow,
   - A completed fellowship programme evaluation form and
   - An exit boarding pass or immigration stamp showing that the fellow has departed the duty station and returned back to his/her home country, where both are not the same, at the end of the fellowship programme.
4. The senior fellowship program is for a minimum of 6 months renewable only once and/or for a maximum of 9 months with possibility of a one-time extension of 3 months only.

ALL SUBMISSIONS TO BE EMAILED TO:			
Email Address:	RecruitmentPPost@un.org		
Subject Line:	**ECA Senior Fellowship for African Professionals, 2026**		

Application deadline

- Applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Addis Ababa time on 9 December 2026.
- **Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

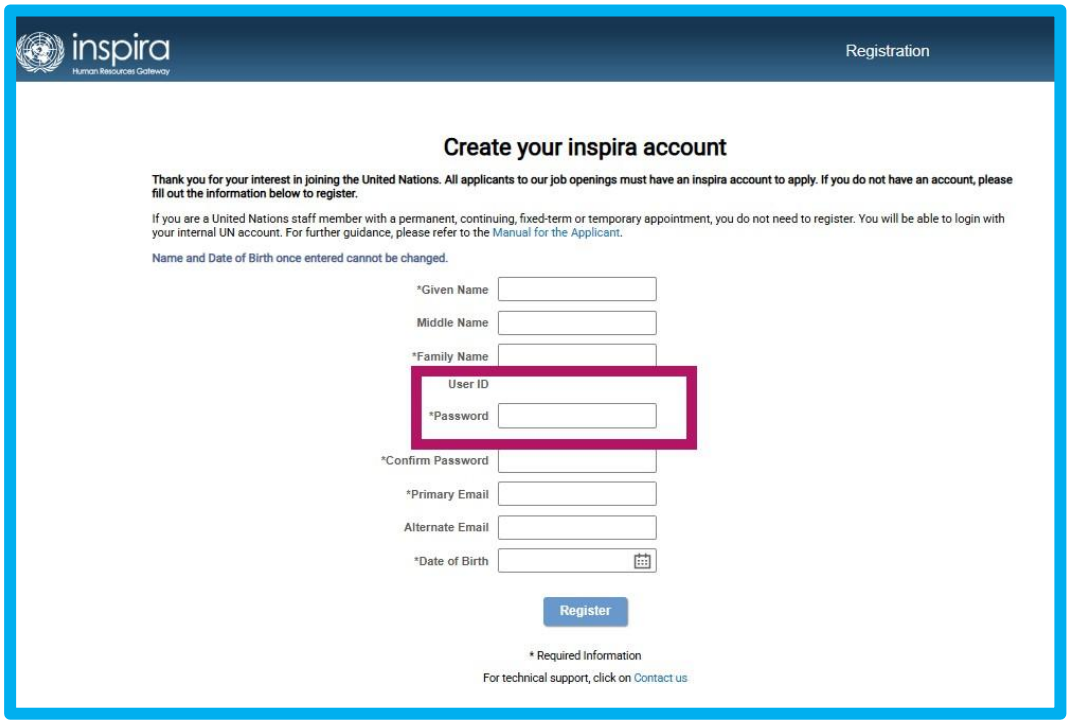
How to Register on Inspira.un.org

Please watch this video on how to create your INSPIRA account or follow the steps below.

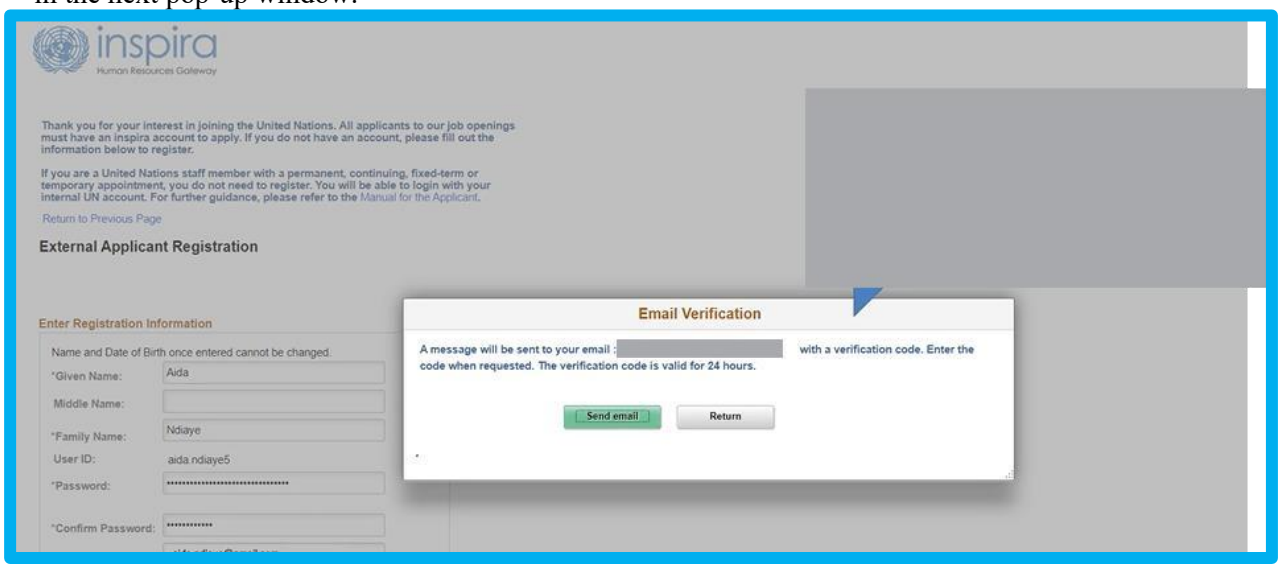
1. Please open following link: https://inspira.un.org/
2. If you are new user of INSPIRA, please create an account by clicking on "Create account here" (if you have previously created an account on INSPIRA, please jump to point #5):



3. Please complete details and click on "Register" button. (Note: All fields with asterisk sign "*" are mandatory). After filling in all the details, please carefully note "User ID" and your password. You will be logging into INSPIRA.UN.ORG through this user ID and password in the future.



4. After clicking "Register" button, if all the information are correct, a pop-up window will appear confirming if verification code needs to be sent to given email address. Please click "send email" button. Please open your email, copy the verification code sent from Inspiraand paste it in the next pop-up window:

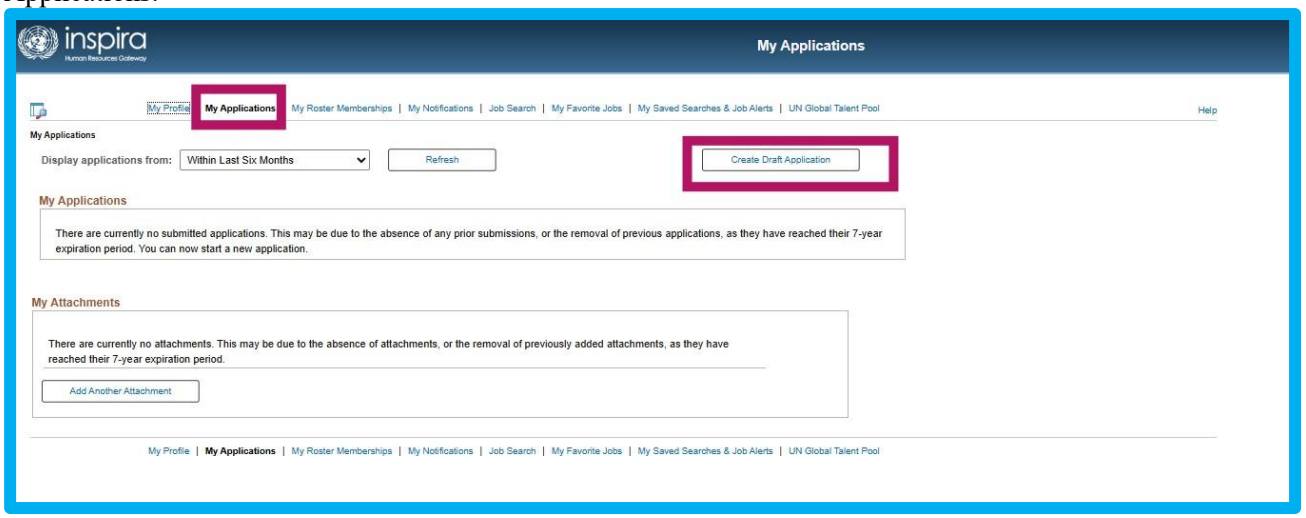


5. When creation of account is confirmed, please go back to login page and login using User ID and password, as created in action above (point # 4).

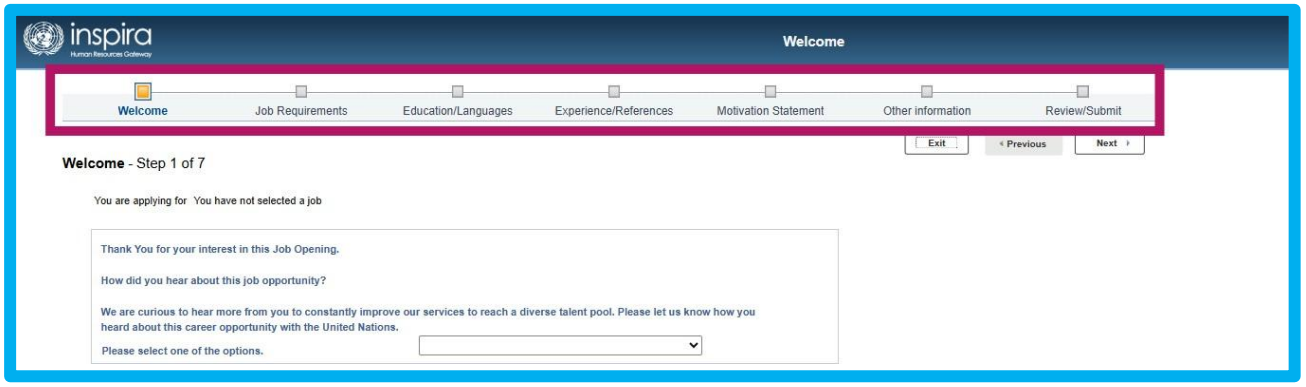


How to create an Application

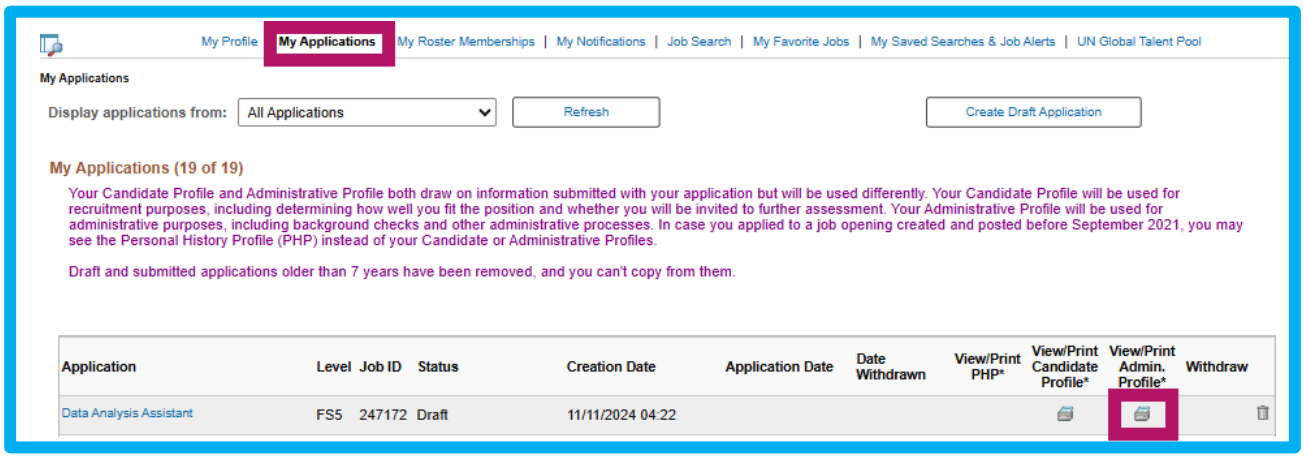
1. After logging in, please click on "My Applications" link and on the next page, click on "Create Draft Applications:



2. Fill up all the details in "Draft Application" one by one by using "Next" button to move to next field after completing one:



3. Your draft application will be saved under "My Application" link. To print, please go to "My Applications" and click onprinter icon to print the application (Admin. Profile). You can also save this application as PDF in your local drive and use electronic copy for applying online.


My Profile
My Applications
My Roster Memberships | My Notifications | Job Search | My Favorite Jobs | My Saved Searches & Job Alerts | UN Global Talent Pool
My Applications
Display applications from: All Applications
Refresh
Create Draft Application
My Applications (19 of 19)
Your Candidate Profile and Administrative Profile both draw on information submitted with your application but will be used differently. Your Candidate Profile will be used for recruitment purposes, including determining how well you fit the position and whether you will be invited to further assessment. Your Administrative Profile will be used for administrative purposes, including background checks and other administrative processes. In case you applied to a job opening created and posted before September 2021, you may see the Personal History Profile (PHP) instead of your Candidate or Administrative Profiles.
Draft and submitted applications older than 7 years have been removed, and you can't copy from them.
Application
Level
Job ID
Status
Creation Date
Application Date
Date Withdrawn
View/Print PHP*
View/Print Candidate Profile*
View/Print Admin. Profile*
Withdraw
Data Analysis Assistant
FS5
247172
Draft
11/11/2024 04:22

SAMPLE ADMINISTRATIVE PROFILE

Administrative Profile for NAME

User Profile as Indicated at Time of Application

Applicant's UNCS Status:	United Nations Index Number: **N/A**	UN Entity: **N/A**
Start date of appointment:	End Date, if any:	Type of Appointment/ Relationship: **N/A**
Reason for Separation:	**N/A**	

Cover Letter for this Application

General Details

Family Name:	Given Name**:**	Middle Name:	Other Name, if any:
Date of Birth:	Gender:	Email Address:	Marital Status:
Country of Nationality:	Country of Nationality at Birth:	Other Nationalities (if any):	
Have you taken any legal steps toward changing your present nationality? If yes, explain the circumstances:			**No**
Have you taken legal permanent resident status in any country other than your current nationality?			**No**
Working for the United Nations might require assignment to any area of the world in which the United Nationsmight have responsibilities. Do you need any assistance to be able to travel? If Yes, specify:			**No**
Do you need any assistance pertaining to your ability to perform the type of work related to the position forwhich you wish to be considered? If Yes, specify:			**No**
Have you ever committed, been convicted of, or prosecuted for, any criminal offence? Have you ever been involved, by act or omission, in the commission of any violation of international human rights law or internationalhumanitarian law? If Yes, please provide the reason, the resolution and a brief explanation:			**No**
Have you ever committed, been investigated for, been prosecuted for, had a finding against you for, or beenconvicted of an offence for, engaging in sexual exploitation and/or abuse? If the answer to the above question is "yes," please specify the conduct(s) and provide the resolution below.			**No**
Have you received a disciplinary measure or administrative measure following a disciplinary process? If theanswer is "yes," please provide details. (*For serving United Nations Secretaria staff members*)			**N/A**

Have you been the subject of a workplace disciplinary process or other similar process or a workplace investigation or similar process of which you are aware? If the answer is "yes," please provide the details andprovide information about any sanction or measure taken. (*For all candidates other than serving Secretariat staff members*)	**N/A**
Are you a successful candidate of the National Competitive Recruitment Examination (NCRE) or the competitiveexamination for recruitment to the Professional category of staff members from other categories (G-to-P), or the	**No**

Address

United Nations Young Professionals Programme examination (YPP)?					
Job Family:					Examination Year:
Permanent:			Current:		
Applicant Contact Information			Emergency Contact Information		
Phone Number Type:	Phone Number:	Extension:	Name:	Phone Number:	Relationship:
Work Phone **Cell Phone**					

Relations

Spouse/ Partner Name:	Date of Birth:	Nationality:	Gender:	Employment Status:
Dependent Name:	Date of Birth:	Nationality:	Gender:	Relationship:
Relative Name:	Organization:	Relationship:	Index number:	

Education

Name of Institution:	City, Country: /	From/To: / Degree Obtained: Degree/Diploma Conferral Date:
Type of Institution:	Degree obtained:	Teaching method/ Enrolment Status: /
Main Course of Study/ Field of study/Specialization: /	Title of the degree/diploma in English orFrench language e.g. "Bachelor in Law":	Exact title in original language:

Employment

Job Title: Name of Employer (Type of Business):	From / To: / UN level:	Type of contract appointment or relationship to the Organization:Employment Type:
Address / Duty Station:	Name and email of Supervisor:	Is this a civil servant position in yourgovernment?
Employer's Phone:	Number and Kind of employeesdirectly supervised by you: **0**	Field of Work/ Speciality: /
Description of Duties and Achievements:		

Languages

Language	Read	Speak	Understand	Write	Mother tongue	Passed UN LPE

UN Training

UN Training	Course Date

Training (Non-UN)

Training	Start Date	End Date

Licenses / Certificates

Certification	Field of study or brief description	Date Obtained

Publications

Title of Publication	Journal/ISBN/ISSN	Date Published

Responses to Screening Questions for this Job Opening

	Question	Answer

References

Reference Name	Position	Organization	How do you know this person?	Address	Telephone number/ Email